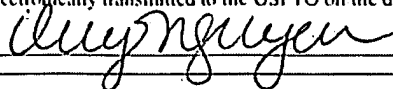


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the USPTO on the date shown below.

Date: July 10, 2008

Signature: _____

 (Quyen B. Nguyen)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/798,739
Confirmation No.: 6427
Filing Date: March 10, 2004
Inventor(s): George D. HERMANN et al.
Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR USE IN MINIMALLY INVASIVE
APPROXIMATION OF MUSCLE AND OTHER TISSUE
Examiner: Melissa K. Ryckman
Group Art Unit: 3773

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patent
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action dated January 10, 2008 for which a response was due on April 10, 2008. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a three-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to July 10, 2008.

Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.